

## \* Discussion Group Notes - 9/9/10

- Generalization on the Diamond reading
  - Hunting and gathering not more primitive, favored the push method
  - Developing agriculture was accidental, not necessarily a conscious decision
- You knew you could farm, would you change?
  - If there's food available for hunting and gathering, why change?
  - With agriculture, ~~how~~ would you feed 12 people during the winter?
  - Hunting + gathering better for smaller populations
- Now hunting can be both a sport and a necessity depending on geography
- Is hunting + gathering or farming better?
  - Depends on population, environment, resources available
  - Not mutually exclusive
- Holes in Diamond's argument?
  - Maybe people did actually want to farm

## German, Kenyan, West Indies Societies

### Similarities

- Social differentiation
- Agricultural
- age, gender, division of labor
- Religion/Belief of some sort

### Differences

- German - Chiefdom(?)
- Gender
- Slavery → German
- Leaders → Kenyan

## Interpretation Problems in the Strayer readers:

- All these sources "outsiders" → biased but objectivity
  - Probably more accurate in structure + technology
  - Less accurate on rituals
- Kenyan article → maybe talking up his own culture

- Skewing evidence in your own favor
- These readings are only excerpts